

WHAT'S Line

Alabama Public Library Service
Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Vol.32 No.4

www.statelibrary.alabama.gov

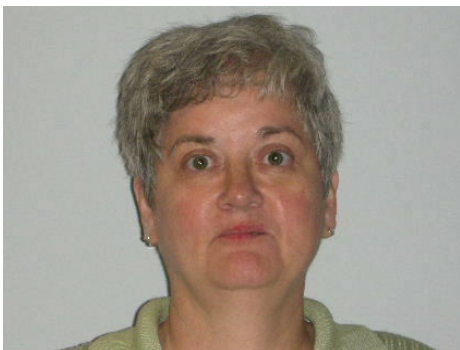
Summer 2010



Caroline Mallord Library Technician, Ruth Evans Regional Librarian for BPH

Staffing and More

While we have not had any lay-offs since November 2009, we will be starting off the third quarter of 2010 with several staff changes. This summer Dana Barlow (Pritchard) passed the torch of Regional Librarian to Ruth Evans, a long time staff member of the Alabama Public Library Service. Mrs. Barlow is moving to another position within APLS. Caroline Mallard, Library Technician, will be joining BPH as the receptionist and clerk.



Susan Clements

Other changes include Lenny Lawson, machine clerk, who will be leaving us this summer to move onward and upward to another state agency. Last, but certainly not least, we announce the retirement of Miss Susan Clements, Reader Advisor (effective July 1, 2010). Miss Clements has faithfully served the patrons of BPH for over 25 years and will be missed by staff and patrons alike.

Because of the small staff we ask that you continue to use the following guidelines when calling in book orders or requesting another machine:

- (1) Give your requests to the individual who answers the phone. All other staff members are busy in the warehouse preparing your books and machines for shipping.
- (2) Limit your call in requests to 10 titles or numbers per call. There is only one person available at any given time to answer the multiple lines.
- (3) If your call rolls over to the answering machine, please leave your name and phone number (including the area code). Your call is important to us and we promise to call back as quickly as possible.
- (4) If you are planning to pick up your books or exchange a machine in person, we would love to see you, but please give us a minimum of 24 hours notice so we can have the books or machine ready. This is especially important in the case of a machine exchange as the repairs get back logged and we may not have one available immediately.

Thank you for your patience with this matter. We promise to do all we can to meet your needs in a timely fashion.

DIGITAL NEWS



Left-Advanced Digital Player –Center-Cartridge and case—Right-Standard Digital Player

The digital machines are out!! In April you may have received a call from one of the Reader Advisors updating patron contact information and surveying each patron's desire to try the new digital machines. As expected the response was overwhelmingly, "yes."

If you have not yet been contacted about receiving the new digital player please contact one of the BPH staff to update your contact information, reading preferences and upgrade to a digital player.



Many of the books have not been transferred to the new format; in order to keep up with requests some are still being filled with cassettes**

We will continue to maintain the cassette machines to the best of our ability for as long as possible so that the collection of new digital cartridges can build up and ultimately become our only format.

Please keep your cassette player for the time being.

In the recent Talking Book Topics you may have noticed two changes in the information: First, the books are listed DB/RC [Digital Book /Recorded Cassette]. This shows the format in which the books are available. Second, the book length is designated by time rather than by number of cassettes; this reflects the fact that all books in the digital format are on a single cartridge rather than multiple cassettes. If you are one of the many patrons who chooses books with length in mind just remember this: one cassette = about 6 hours.

The Regional Library in Montgomery is shipping the new digital machines to the Subregionals in Dothan, Huntsville, and Talladega as quickly and efficiently as it can. If you are being served by a Subregional Library please be patient. Limited shipments are arriving only once a month and allotments are being distributed as quickly as possible.

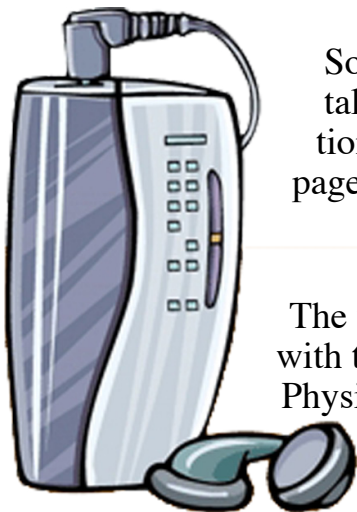
SUBREGIONAL NEWS

The Regional Library would like to say, "Welcome," to the patrons of Tuscaloosa and the surrounding areas. The Tuscaloosa Subregional BPH, housed in the Tuscaloosa Public Library is suspending its services effective July 1, 2010 due to budgetary constraints and staffing issues. The Regional Library in Montgomery will see that patron services are continued and that the transition is as smooth as possible. Patrons in the Tuscaloosa service area may feel free to call the Regional Library in Montgomery at the Toll Free number 1-800-392-5671 between 8 a.m. and 5p.m. Mon-Fri.

IN OTHER NEWS

BPH patrons are not the only ones listening to their books these days. Millions of people are accessing pay-per-use internet sites every day downloading books onto alternate reading devices such as Kindles, Victor Reader Streams, iPads and others.

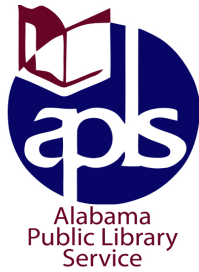
In an article in the May 17 issue of Library Hotline, Internet Archive (IA) announced that one million books are being made available to blind, dyslexic and print-impaired individuals.



Some 340,000 works held by the IA have been converted to the DAISY talking-book format, while the others are simply openly accessible editions available via the Open Library, an IA project that aims to create a web page for every book.

The works will be made available to qualifying readers officially registered with the Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS).

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**Regional Library for the
Blind and Physically
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5030 Monticello Drive
Montgomery, AL 36130**

Free Material for
the Blind and
Physically
Handicapped

Address Service Requested

WhAT's Line

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